

## A Narrative of the Freemasons word and signes.

First they discover other by signes next they go in private to discourse, one signe is by giving their right hand a cast cross their brest from left to right with the tops of their fingers about 3 or 4 inches below their Chin, another is by pulling of their hat with their right hand their two first fingers above and the thumb and all the rest below the hats brim pulling it off and giving it a cast from Left to right then on their head another is of drinking giving the glass a / a cast cross under their chin from left to right : another is taking their handker by the corner with their right hand and throw it over their Left shoulder. letting it hang down their back and so walk a few steps along if any mason see it they will follow and take him by the hand; their gripe for fellow crafts is grasping their right hands in Each other thrusting their thumb nails close upon the third Joynt of each others first fingers their Master's gripe is grasping their right hands in each other, placing their four finger's nails hard upon the Carpus of each of others wrist and their thumb nails thrust hard directly between the second Joynt of the thumb and the third Joynt of the first finger but some say the masts grip is the same I last described only each of the middle fingers must reach an inch or three barley cornes length higher to touch upon a vein yt comes from the heart.

Another signe is placing their right heel to the inside of their left in forme of a square so walk a few steps backward and forward at every third step make a little Stand placing their feet square as aforesaid this done any if masons receive it they will presently come to you if you come where any masons tooles lyes lay yn in forme of a square they will presently know yt a free brother hath been there or a free brother coming where free masons are at worke if he takes some of their tooles and lay ym in forme of a square / it is a signe to discover him, or if he takes one of their tooles or his own Staff and strike softly on the wall at worke saying this is bosc or hollow if their be any free brother at the work he will answr it is solid wch woods are signes to discovr each othr. Another signe some use bending their right arm in forme of a square and laying the palm of their left hand upon their heart . Another is by twisting their eyes towards the east and twisting their mouth toward the West Another is bending their right knee holding up their hand towards the east and if it be night or dark they will give the Little haughts and a great one as if they were forceing a bone or a lump out of their throat , they will say ye day is for seeing the night for hearing , Anoth, signe is by lending you a crooked pin or a bit of paper cut in the forme of a square on receipt of wch you must come from wt place or company soever you are in by virtue of your oath and by ye forementioned signe of y what of hand ye are to come if it were from the top of // of a Steeple to know their pleasure and to assist them, And to lett you know he wants money he will hold a bitt of a pipe ( or some such thing ) to you saying can you change a cole pence if you have some money you say is if you have none say no, some will signifye their want of money by pulling their knife out of the sheath and giving it to a brothr in company or alone if the brothr have money he takes the knife putting it in its sheath and returne it, if he have none he will return it bare as he and receed it; which many of them do not withstanding their oath ~~xxxxx~~ many othr signes they reject tho by oath they are bound to nnnnn obey all ; Another signe is by taking their handker in their right hand and blow their nose then holding it Straight out before them they give it two little shakes and a big one Another signe is knocking at any door two little knocks and the third a big they have another signe used at the Table drinking when the glass goes not fast enough round they say Star the guile .

To Discourse a mason in France , Spaine , or Turkey ( say they ) the signe is to kneel Down on his left knee and hold up his right hand to the sunn and the out landish Brothr will presently take him up but believe me if they go on their knees



on that acct they may remain there; or any psons observe their signes as long as ye Jews will remaine on their beleife to rece their wished fo Mesias from the East.

Here followeth their private discourse By way of Question and Answer.

- Q. Are you a mason (A) yes I am a freemason
- Q. How shall I know that (A) by perfect signes and tokens and the first poyntes of my entrance.
- Q. which is the first signe or token shew me the first and I will show you the second (A) the first is Heall and Conceal or Conceal and keep secrett by no less paine than cutting my tongue from my throat.
- Q. where were you made a Mason (A) ina just and perfect or a just a. and Lawfull Lodge
- Q. what is a just and perfect ar just and Lawfull Lodge (A) A just and perfect Lodge is two Interprintices two fellow craftes and two Mastrs more or fewer the more the merrier the fewer the Better Chear but if need require five will serve that is two Interprintices two fellow craftes and one Mastr on the highest hill or Lowest Valley of the world without the crow of a Cock or the bark of a dogg.
- Q. from whom do you derive your principals (A) from a greater than you
- Q. who is that on earth that is greater then a freemason (A) He yt was carried to ye highest pinnicall of the Temple of Jerusalem
- Q. whithr is your Lodge shut or open (A) it is shut
- Q. where Lyes ~~fixthex~~ the Keys of the Lodge doore (A) they lay in a bound Case or undr a thre cornerd pavent about a foot and halfe from the Lodge door
- Q. wt is the Key of your Lodge doores (A) // Doore made of (A) it is not made of Wood Iron Stone oir steelor any sort of mettle but the tongue of a good report behind a Brothrs back as well as before his face
- Q. how many Jewles belong to your Lodge (A) there are three the Square pavent the blazing Star and the Danty tassley.
- Q. how Long is the Cable rope of your Lodge (A) as Long as from the Lop of the Liver to the root of the tongue
- Q. how many Lights are in your Lodge (A) three the sun the mastr an and the Square
- Q. how high is your Lodge (A) without foots yard or Inches it reaches to heaven
- Q. how stood your Lodge (A) east and west as all holly Temples Stand
- Q. who is the Mastrs place in the Lodge (A) the east place is the mastrs place in the Lodge and the Jewell resteth on him first and he setteth men toworke wt the mastrs have in the footpoo the wardens reap in the Afternoon.
- In some places they discourse as followeth (Viz)
- Q. Where was the first word given (A) at the Tower of Babylon
- Q. where did they first call their Lodge (A) at the holy Chapell of St John
- Q. Whow stood your Lodge (A) as the Said holy Chapell and all other holy Temples stand (Viz) east and west
- Q. how many lights are in your Lodge (A) two one to see to go in and another to see to work
- Q. what were you sworn by (A) by god and the Square
- Q. whither above the Cloathes or undr the Cloathes (A) under the Cloathes
- Q. under what Arme (A) under the right Arme

God is Gratfull to all Worshipfull Mastrs and fellows in that Worshipfull Lodge from whence we Last came and to you good fellow wt is your name (A) J or B then giving the grip of the hand he will say Brothr John greet you well you (A) gods good greeting to you dear dear Brothr

Another salutation is giving the mastrs or fellows grip saying the right worshipfull the mastrs and fellows in that worshipfull Lodge from whence we Last came greet you greet you greet you well, then he will repley Gods good greeting to you dear Brother.

Another they haue they call the mastrs word and is

Mahabyn which is always divided into two words and Standing close With their Breasts to each othr the inside of each othrs right Ancle joynts the mastrs grip by their right hands and the top of their Left hand fingers thurst close on ye small of each othrs Backbone and in that posture they stand till they whispr in each othrs eares ye one Maha= the othr repleys Ryn //

The Oath.

The mason word and everything therein contained you shall keep secrett you shall never put it in writing directly or Indirectly you shall keep all that we or your attendrs shall bid you keep secret from Man Woman or Child Stock or Stone and never reveal it but to a brother or in a Lodge of Freemasons and truly observe the Charges in ye Constitucon all this you promise and swere faithfully to keep and observe without any mannr of Equivocation or mentall resarvation directly or Indirectly so help you god and by the Contents of this book.  
So he kisses the book etc.

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